

Special Thanks

Conference Committee

- ❖ Barbara Ward, Chair, *California Department of Veterans Affairs*
- ❖ Mary Wiberg, *California Commission on the Status of Women*
- ❖ Elaine Suranie, *California Commission on the Status of Women*
- ❖ Derrick Jackson, *DeVry University*
- ❖ Robin Jackson, *VA Northern CA Health Care System*
- ❖ Leslie Satz, *Women Veterans Program Manager, San Diego*
- ❖ Charlie Lonons, *Ministry Outreach Coordinator*
- ❖ Susan Bush, *Women Army Corps, Chapter 96*
- ❖ Jan Wald, *Sacramento County CVSO*
- ❖ Bryn Sullivan, *California Legislative Women's Caucus*

Special Thanks to:

- ❖ One Call Medical
- ❖ USDVA Northern CA Health Care System
- ❖ Health Education Council
- ❖ Veterans of Foreign Wars
- ❖ Disabled American Veterans, *Marysville Chapter 9*
- ❖ Blue Shield of California
- ❖ Della Gray, *Mary Kay Cosmetics*
- ❖ Bonnie Bane, *Mary Kay Cosmetics*
- ❖ Seanna Herring-Jensen, *West Care*
- ❖ Tina Lifford, *Founder and Director of Waking Up Fabulous workshops and retreats*
- ❖ Fresno Women's Color Guard
 - Kathleen Baca
 - Anna Lawley
 - Patricia Stidham
 - Laurie Chavez
 - Teri Mason
 - Rosa Taylor-Bivings
 - Sara Felix
 - Gina Grunewald
 - Wendy Ryan

CalVet Women Veterans Conference: Continuing Our Legacy



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Friday, August 8, 2008

LIONS GATE HOTEL
McClellan, CA
(Sacramento)



As Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans Affairs, I welcome each of you to our first conference for women veterans. Upon accepting my appointment with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, one of my first goals was to hold such an event to honor and recognize the contributions of courageous military women who have made so many sacrifices and continue to do so in securing our nation's freedom.

This conference was planned by many individuals who are truly passionate about meeting the needs of our more than 164,000 California women veterans. Today's event is a true labor of love and we hope that each of you will take away valuable information and expand your network while enjoying the presentations of our distinguished guests who represent all military branches.

Welcome Home and thank you for your service!

Barbara Ward
Deputy Secretary
Women and Minority Veterans Affairs

all women to be self sufficient, independent, and equal partners in their homes, communities, places of work and government. www.sen.ca.gov/womenscaucus

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SACRAMENTO CHAPTER 6 (Silver Sponsor)

With more than 1.4 million members, Disabled American Veterans is an organization of disabled veterans who are focused on building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. The organization accomplishes this goal by providing free assistance to veterans in obtaining benefits and services earned through their military service. www.dav.org

County Veterans Service Officers Association

The CACVSO is a veterans' advocacy organization of County Veterans Service Officers. We promote legislation and policy supportive of veterans' rights and issues in harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United States Armed Forces. www.cacvso.org

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 92

With almost a million members from all walks of life, the Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs, gives tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs as well as other worthwhile charities familiar to most Americans. It is all accomplished with volunteers. www.legion-aux.org

Women Army Corps San Diego Chapter 50 and Sacramento Chapter 96

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was the women's branch of the US Army. It was created as an auxiliary unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942, and converted to full status as the WAC in 1943. About 150,000 American women served in the WAAC and WAC during World War II. They were the first women other than nurses to serve with the Army. www.history.army.mil/brochures/wac/wac.htm

CalVet VetFund

The VetFund was established to allow the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs to accept non-specific donations from individuals, companies and organizations that want to help and support the veterans of California. Through this fund the Secretary can and does support programs in communities around the state that directly benefit veterans and active duty personnel or their families. Some of the special projects supported by this fund include upgrades of veterans memorials, stand-downs and other homeless veteran programs, care-packages for troops, and special events on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. www.cdva.ca.gov/VetFund/Default.aspx

Sponsors

HELP AMERICA FOUNDATION (Major Grant Sponsor)

The Help.America Foundation is a non-profit organization that has a goal to improve the quality of life for those in America who have uncommonly great needs due to circumstances beyond their control. This will be accomplished one heart, one home and one family at a time. www.helpamericafoundation.org

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Pacific Gas and Electric Company, incorporated in California in 1905, is one of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, the company is a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. www.pge.com

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WestCare empowers everyone with whom we come into contact to engage in a process of healing, growth and change benefiting themselves, their families, coworkers and communities. www.westcare.com

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CAUCUS (Gold Sponsor)

The Legislative Women's Caucus represents and advocates on behalf of the diverse interests of women, children and families throughout California. It seeks to increase participation and representation of women in state government. Members of the Legislative Women's Caucus seek to promote sound legislative policies and budget priorities that will improve the well being of women, children and families and to work cooperatively with local, state and national women's organizations interested in advancing policies to achieve these same objectives. The Legislative Women's Caucus is bipartisan and embraces the goal of empowering



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Irene Trowell-Harris, R.N. Ed.D was nominated to be Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Women Veterans in June 2001 and approved by the White House on October 2, 2001. In this role, she is the primary advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on programs and issues related to women veterans.

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Trowell-Harris served as Director of the VA Office of Inspector General's Washington, D.C. Healthcare Inspections Regional Office. In this position, she directed a multidisciplinary staff of inspectors responsible for conducting oversight reviews to improve the economy, effectiveness and efficiency of VA programs.

Concurrent with her position in VA's Office of Inspector General, Dr. Trowell-Harris served 38 years in the U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard, retiring as a Major General in September 2001. During her military career, Dr. Trowell-Harris held numerous positions, including chief nurse executive, flight nurse examiner, commander, advisor for nursing and readiness, assistant to the director, Air National Guard (ANG), and military representative to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services for the ANG. She was a 1997 Air Force representative for the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces Conference held in Istanbul.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:00 a.m. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:00 a.m. CONFERENCE OPENING**
- Invocation – Chaplain Christopher Gaudiz
 - Posting of Colors
 - Fresno Women's Color Guard
 - National Anthem – Capt. Sonya G. Moore
 - Greetings
 - Secretary Tom Johnson
 - Message from First Lady Maria Shriver
 - Deputy Secretary Barbara Ward
 - Elaine Suranie, CA Commission on the Status of Women
- 8:45 a.m. CHANGING TRENDS FOR MILITARY WOMEN**
- Brigadier General Mary Kight, Joint Forces
 - Lt. Colonel Stephanie Smith, Marine Corps
 - Captain Maureen Pennington, U.S. Navy
 - Retired USAF Major General Alice Astafan
 - SSgt. Diane Morales, Army
 - Yeoman 1st Class Stacy Stevens, Coast Guard
- 10:00 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:15 a.m. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OF WOMEN VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**
- Rene Wagner, Palo Alto VA Medical Center
- 11:00 a.m. VA WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**
- Julie Laguardia (Northern CA), Leslie Satz (San Diego), Callie Wight (Los Angeles), Gina Rawson (Long Beach), Ann Thraikill (Palo Alto), Cheryl Wenell (Sepulveda), Marcella McCormack (Yountville Veterans Home)

- 11:45 A.M. LUNCH**
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris
Director U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans
- 1:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS (Session 1)**
- Hot Topics in Women's Health
 - Dr. Margaret Carrico
 - Employment Assistance
 - Carol Katalbas / Paula Snipes
 - VA State and Federal Benefits
 - Jan Wald
 - Coping With Mental Health Issues
 - Renee E. Wagner, MSW, ASW
- 2:00 p.m. BREAK**
- 2:15 p.m. WORKSHOPS (Session 2)**
- Hot Topics in Women's Health
 - Dr. Margaret Carrico
 - Employment Assistance
 - Carol Katalbas / Paula Snipes
 - VA State and Federal Benefits
 - Jan Wald
 - Coping with Mental Health Issues
 - Renee E. Wagner, MSW, ASW
- 3:15 p.m. OPEN FORUM**
An opportunity to share with the California Commission on the Status of Women your concerns and challenges as a woman veteran
Moderator: Elaine Suranie
- 4:30 p.m. CONFERENCE CLOSE**
RAFFLE